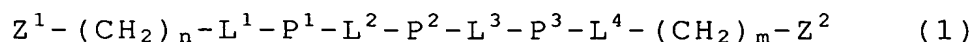


Claims

1. A liquid crystalline oxetane compound represented by the formula:



wherein Z^1 and Z^2 are each independently a group represented by any one of formulas (2), (3) and (4) below, L^1 , L^2 , L^3 , and L^4 each independently indicate direct bond or are a group represented by any of $-O-$, $-O-CO-$, or $-CO-O-$, P^1 and P^2 are each independently a group represented by formula (5) below, and P^3 indicates direct bond or is a group represented by formula (5) below, n and m are each independently an integer of 0 to 8;



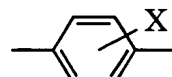
(2)



(3)



(4)



(5)

wherein X is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, or halogen.

2. The liquid crystalline oxetane compound according to claim 1 wherein Z^1 and Z^2 are each independently a group represented by formula (2), L^1 and L^4 are each independently a group of $-O-$, L^2 is a group of $-CO-O-$, L^3 is a group of $-O-CO-$, P^1 and P^3 are each independently 1,4-phenylene group, and P^2 is 1,4-phenylene group or methyl-substituted 1,4-phenylene group.

3. A polymerizable liquid crystalline composition containing at least 10 percent by mass or more of the liquid crystalline oxetane compound of claim 1.

4. The polymerizable liquid crystalline composition according to claim 3 containing a photocation generator and/or a thermal cation generator.

5. A method of producing a liquid crystal film wherein a layer of the polymerizable liquid crystalline composition of claim 3 or 4 is formed on an alignable film so as to be aligned in a liquid crystal orientation and then polymerized with light and/or heat to fix the aligned structure.

6. An optical film comprising a liquid crystal film produced by the method of claim 5.

7. The optical film according to claim 6 having a function as any one selected from a uniaxial or twisted retardation film, a cholesteric orientation-type circular polarizing reflection film, and a nematic hybrid orientation-type compensation film.

8. A liquid crystal display equipped with at least one optical film of claim 6 or 7.